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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 21
46TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2004
INTRODUCED BY
Mimi Stewart

A JOINT MEMORIAL

**REQUESTING THAT THE NEW MEXICO CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION REQUEST
A FEDERAL APPROPRIATION FOR FEASIBILITY STUDIES FOR IDENTIFIED
PRIORITY WILDLIFE CROSSINGS TO REDUCE WILDLIFE-VEHICLE
COLLISIONS.**

**WHEREAS, the first session of the forty-sixth legislature
passed House Joint Memorial 3, requesting that state and
federal officials take action to reduce wildlife-vehicle
collisions on state roads; and**

**WHEREAS, as a result of House Joint Memorial 3, state and
federal highway and wildlife experts met in June 2003 and
identified four highway segments that are priority areas for
reducing wildlife-vehicle collisions to make New Mexico's roads
safer for people and wildlife; and**

**WHEREAS, the identified priority areas are interstate 40
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1 in Tijeras canyon, interstate 25 over Raton pass, United States
2 highway 70 through San Augustine pass and state highway 90
3 through the Burro mountains; and

4 WHEREAS, reducing wildlife-vehicle collisions will
5 increase driver, passenger and wildlife safety, which may
6 consequently lessen insurance costs; and

7 WHEREAS, state and federal highway and wildlife experts
8 should continue to study the identified priority areas to
9 determine the most effective methods for reducing wildlife-
10 vehicle collisions; and

11 WHEREAS, the technology for linking habitats and
12 facilitating animal crossings, including constructing
13 overpasses, underpasses and fences, is being successfully used
14 by other states and by many European countries; and

15 WHEREAS, because New Mexico is home to numerous roads that
16 run through wildlife habitats, the state should design safe
17 passageways, including enlarged underpasses and landscaped
18 overpasses, for wildlife on the roads; and

19 WHEREAS, creating wildlife crossings in the four
20 identified priority areas is an essential step in linking
21 wildlife habitats that are currently fragmented by roads; and

22 WHEREAS, as a result of House Joint Memorial 3, the
23 department of game and fish and the department of
24 transportation have initiated development on a memorandum of
25 understanding to facilitate cooperation in the long-term

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1 planning of road projects to reduce wildlife-vehicle
2 collisions;

3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
4 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico congressional
5 delegation be asked to request the appropriation of federal
6 funds for feasibility studies for wildlife crossings to reduce
7 wildlife-vehicle collisions on interstate 40 in Tijeras canyon,
8 interstate 25 over Raton pass, United States highway 70 through
9 San Augustine pass and state highway 90 through the Burro
10 mountains; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department of game and
12 fish and the department of transportation be requested to
13 complete the memorandum of understanding for cooperation on
14 long-term projects to reduce vehicle-wildlife collisions by
15 December 31, 2004; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department of game and
17 fish and the department of transportation be requested to
18 report their progress to the interim water and natural
19 resources committee; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
21 transmitted to the New Mexico congressional delegation, the
22 secretary of transportation, the director of the department of
23 game and fish and the chair of the state game commission.